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CM launches Anti Depredation Squads of Forest Dept.

We must strive for reducing man animal conflicts: CM

Dispur, December 5: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today ceremonially launched 15 Anti Depredation Squads of Forest Department which would be stationed in 15 major human wildlife conflict districts in order to mitigate the problem and to ensure safety of both humans and wildlife. The launching ceremony was held at Assam Administrative Staff College by Forest Department, Govt of Assam.

It is to mention that Forest Department is engaging specially trained 50 frontline staff to handle conflict situations. 100 more staff will be trained in the coming days.

The anti depredation squads will be equipped with all logistics required for mitigating the conflict. Currently 150 nos of 12 Bore pump action guns and 15,000 rounds of rubber bullet ammunition will be at the disposal of the squads.

Speaking at the programme, Chief Minister Sonowal said that loss of lives of both humans and animals is unwarranted and the squads must spread awareness about avoiding man animal conflicts. Peaceful coexistence is must for man and animals and squads would be a great addition to Forest Department in order to reduce casualties in conflict situations.

He emphasised on the need to bring the casualties to zero by completely reducing man animal conflict situations and urged the people of the state to cooperate with squads in spreading awareness about animal behaviour.

The Chief Minister also distributed weapons and equipments to the squads at programme.

Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya also spoke at programme which was attended by Water Resource Minister Keshab Mahanta, PCCF A.N. Singh among others.

Swakkhyar/ December 5, 2019.